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**1997 CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM CATEGORY III  
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS  
INQUIRY SUBMITTAL**

**a. Project Title.** Twitchell Island Environmental Restoration and Levee Improvements.

**Applicant Name:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The potential non-Federal sponsor is the California Department of Waster Resources (DWR.)

**b. Project description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objective:** Twitchell Island is located in the western Delta. About 90 percent of Twitchell Island is owned by DWR and is currently leased as agricultural land. The remainder of the island includes a marina and more agricultural land. Levees were first developed on the island in 1885. A total of 11.8 miles of levee protect the island from flooding. Approximately 2.5 miles of Sacramento River Flood Control Project levees are located along Three Mile and Seven Mile Sloughs. The Proposed project would restore environmental habitat on Twitchell Island while improving levee stability to decrease the chance of levee failure. Environmental restoration would include creation of managed agricultural areas, riparian and upland woodlands and grasslands, and permanent and seasonal wetlands over the entire island. The creation of shaded riverain aquatic habitat will also be investigated on the waterside of the existing levee system. Facilities to enhance recreation opportunities associated and compatible with the restored habitat will be investigated. Levee improvements would be included as part of the project to protect the financial investment in the restoration areas. The levee improvements also would provide economic and environmental benefits to other Delta resources.

**c. Approach/Tasks/Schedule:** The Corps has initiated studies of the proposed project and completed a reconnaissance phase investigation in May 1995 (attached). The Corps is funded to proceed to a feasibility phase investigation and prepare an EIS/EIR, but a non-Federal cost-sharing partner is required. DWR supports the project, but has been unable to secure funds for the non-Federal share of continued investigations. The Category III funding would be used to support DWR's continued participation in the development of the project. The following is a preliminary schedule assuming funds could be secured by January 1998:

Initiate feasibility phase studies:	January 1998
Complete feasibility phase studies:	October 2000
Initiate Construction:	October 2003

**d. Justification of Project and Funding by CALFED:** The proposed project would improve and increase wetland and other habitats and would improve ecological functions in the western Delta. The project would support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species. These objectives are consistent with the overall objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

**e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts:** The Corps will provide 50 percent of the cost of the development of the feasibility study and EIS/EIR, and approximately 65% of the cost to

construct the project. The non-Federal sponsor will be responsible for the remaining 50% of feasibility study costs and the 35% of the construct costs. The estimated cost to implement the proposed project is about \$40 million, which includes the value of the lands currently owned by DWR.

**f. Applicant Qualifications:** The potential non-Federal sponsor for the project is DWR, which has a strong interest and role in ecosystem restoration in the Delta.

**g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation:** Establishment of the various habitat types will be monitored as part of the ongoing operation and management of the project.

**h. Local support/Coordination/CALFED Compatibility:** Local support for this project is strong. DWR, the primary land owner, is fully supportive of this project, as are the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project is fully compatible with the objectives of CALFED for the region.